EXCISE (20)

MABRAY JOYCE A 05/07/82 165242 PRINTER: LI
81 BAGHDAD 1568

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01568 091112Z
ACTION NEA-11
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-15 OIC-02 CIAE-00
EA-10 DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00
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PAGE 02 PAGHDA 01568 091112Z
E.O. 12065: GDS 6/9/01 (EAGLETON, WILLIAM L) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, IS, IZ
SUBJ: IRAQI REACTION TO ISRAELI RAID ON NUCLEAR FACILITY
1. (CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. PEOPLE OF BAGHDAD SEEM TO BE REACTING WITH CALM, ANGER AND LITTLE SURISED TO STATEMENTS FROM TEL AVIV AND BAGHDAD THAT ISRAELI PLANES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE JUNE 7 ATTACK ON THE NUCLEAR FACILITY AT TUWAITHA. AFTERNOON JUNE 8 BAGHDAD RADIO ANNOUNCED REPEATEDLY THAT A STATEMENT BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL WOULD SOON BE BROADCAST. WHEN IT WAS READ SHORTLY AFTER 1900, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT IRAQ WOULD USE THE RAID TO TARNISH

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/30/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☒
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☒ in part.
PA or (FOI) EXEMPTIONS 3-1

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IRAN AND ITS ARAB ALLIES RATHER THAN CENTER CRITICISM ON THE U.S., WHICH WAS NOT MENTIONED AT ALL. NOR WAS THERE ANY SUGGESTION THAT IMMEDIATE REVENGE WAS PLANNED.

B-1

ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, HAMMADI ALSO MET WITH THE BRITISH, FRENCH, AND CHINESE AMBASSADORS, AND RCC MEMBER TARIQ AZIZ CALLED IN THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR.

3. JUNE 9 PRESS REPORTS IRAQ'S CALL FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND A SPECIAL ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING IN BAGHDAD. IT ALSO REFERS TO PHONE CALLS OF SUPPORT FROM KING HUSSEIN, KING KHALID, COLONEL ALI ABDULLA SALAH OF THE YAR, KUWAIT'S CROWN PRINCE AND PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA OF TUNISIA. SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S REMARKS IN TOKYO AND THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE STATEMENTS WERE ALSO REPORTED, THOUGH THE U.S. STATEMENT WAS NOT.

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4. FIRST INDICATIONS ARE THAT IRAQ WILL NOT TAKE HASTY ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL OR OTHERS IN RESPONSE TO THE ATTACK. INSTEAD IRAQ IS EMBARKED ON A DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN TO ATTRACT SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FROM ALL QUARTERS, TO LINK ISRAEL AND IRAN, AND TO DISCREDIT ARAB STATES, PRINCIPALLY SYRIA, WHICH ARE SUPPORTING IRAN. THE STRONG STATEMENT OF CONDEMNATION FROM WASHINGTON WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI TOLD ME HE UNDERSTOOD HAD BEEN MADE BY PRESIDENT REAGAN, WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN DEFLECTING IRAQI IRE FROM THE U.S., THOUGH THE U.S. POSITION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHED.

5. WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS OUT OF ISRAEL WHICH HAVE BEEN PICKED UP IN THE U.S. PRESS THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN IN THE RECENT PAST MADE A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT IRAQI NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD BE USED AGAINST ISRAEL. WE CAN FIND NO BASIS FOR THESE EPORTS.

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